While the idea of providing everyone a high speed internet connection and the inherent competition which this access would foster seems worthy, the down sides must be taken into consideration "very" carefully.

The FCC's position that, "while the radiated signal(s) will not be a problem to many who live far enough from the signal carrying power cables, mobile radio operators will experience severe interference, for small periods of time while passing near or under the operating cables".

The above comments have generally been aimed at the Amateur Radio community as an, "It's not as bad as you make it out to be", declaration. However I must point out that not only are a "few" hobbyists going to suffer this interference, but so will all of the Police, Fire, EMS, and even School Transportation vehicles which operate on the affected frequencies, who are numerous.

My wife and I operate a small 2-way radio installation and maintenance business; our main customers being school bus transportation providers. While the majority of our customers are on VHF-Hi Band (150 to 170 MHz.) or UHF (450 to 470 MHz.) even one of those companies experiences communication interference in several neighborhoods from leakage from the local Cable T.V. system (another electronic problem which isn't supposed to happen). Having the base dispatcher being "stepped on" by the severely distorted voice of Oprah in the afternoon doesn't enhance the safe operating of vehicles which are in the business of transporting our next generation of voters.

The aforementioned interference will be nothing compared to what my customers who use the VHF-Lo Band (30 to 50 MHz.) to communicate on will experience. The din of the digital BPL chatter will render their communications a shambles. Consider also this: every antenna (power line) which radiates signals also receives signals equally as well... every time one of those busses transmits, the broadband system will be interfered with, causing someone's streaming audio to suddenly break up, repeatedly. These vehicles WILL be running under and beside the very powerlines that BPL will be propagating down, these vehicles will have no quiet place to run to so that they can call the base in an emergency, like "Johnny's not on my bus, where is he!?", which does occasionally happen, or, "Johnny's mom isn't here to meet the bus, what shall I do with him!?", or Johnny just threw up... bad!! Send HELP!!".

Also, these vehicles legally run considerable power levels so the interference TO BPL will be both periodic and severe. Add to this mix, that many Police, EMS and Fire Departments use the VHF-Lo Band as their primary communications link. Are those who champion BPL ready to explain to some mother, who's son, or wife, who's husband's life was jeopardized by paid for interference coming from a power line, that it's all being done in the spirit of competition and connectivity for the masses, so that Billy can play Dungeons and Dragons on line with his buddy a block or two away?! Really? Yes, it can and will go that far!

In all fairness, I must confess that I am also a licensed Amateur Radio operator who has no desire to see the spectrum cluttered up with even more interference, but still my observations on the commercial aspects of this soon to be pervasive interference are not invalidated by my choice of hobbies.

Please have the wisdom to ask the technical agencies for truly

unbiased answers instead of handing them, and us, an apparent party line. Please look into the eyes of the businessmen who will profit from BPL and ask them for the truth, not just what their advertising packages proclaim to the uneducated. Ask technical folks who don't have an ax to grind for the truth, and then act on it accordingly.

Let us make sure that Pandora doesn't have a chance to get out of her box, before we start putting the key into the lock.

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